

Board of Public Education and Office of Public Instruction

Chapter 55 Joint Task Force

Expected Outcomes for September 29-30, 2010 Work Session

Purpose

To review and revise Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 10.55 Standards of Accreditation to align standards with current innovative practice providing flexibility and ensuring quality education and accountability.

Charge

The Chapter 55 Joint Task Force shall provide to the Superintendent and the BPE recommendations for amendments to ARM 10.55. Recommended amendments to ARM will comply with MAPA rules for public hearing.

By Thursday afternoon, September 30, the Chapter 55 Joint Task Force will

1. Complete the study of Chapter 55, with at least 20 initial rule language recommendations and corresponding rationales.

The Joint Task Force completed a thorough review of the current Chapter 55 recommending 33 changes to rule language and recommending 69 instances to make no changes to current rule language. Prior to the November 15-16 meeting, the Joint Task Force will actively seek comments from educators on the draft recommendations for consideration.

2. Review and agree on the guiding principles for Chapter 55 work of Task Force.

On September 30, 2010, the Joint Task Force unanimously recommended for adoption the Chapter 55 Guiding Principles to the Superintendent and Board of Public Education for adoption.

3. Understand and articulate the issues and related implications for Chapter 55 based on the Constituent Group comments.

On September 29, 2010, the Joint Task Force heard the comments from the Bozeman Public Schools, Montana Library Association, Association of School Nurses, and Montana Association of Teachers of English Language Arts. These presentations provided the Joint Task Force with data and information to consider when reviewing specifically rules relating to assignment of counselors and librarians, new language requiring school nurses, and class size and significant writing policy issues. The Task Force will consider the information presented.

4. Identify key components, appropriate to Montana, of a “blended” accreditation model, (innovative practice to encourage flexibility while ensuring education quality and accountability).

On September 30, 2010, Dennis Parman, Deputy Superintendent, outlined the need to examine a variety of models to “blend” input standards with performance-based standards. Dennis discussed the lesson learned from the Colorado and Kansas models based on interviews he conducted with representatives from each state. Dennis presented a PBA model that would incorporate a “blended” model to fit Montana. Lance Melton and Bill McCaw provided two other Performance-Based Accreditation models for the Task Force to consider. The Task Force asked questions and considered the five models presented. This work will continue during the next two Task Force meetings to create, accept, and recommend for approval to the Superintendent and Board of Public Education.

5. Establish the sub-committee to address the Chapter 55 language for the Framework for the Evaluation of School Leaders/Teachers.

Dennis Parman, Deputy Superintendent, announced the purpose and formation of the Framework for the Evaluation of School Leaders/Teachers Sub-Committee. Steve York, Assistant Superintendent, will facilitate the work of the Sub-Committee. Members of the Framework for the Evaluation of School Leaders/Teachers Sub-Committee include: Orville Getz, Bill McCaw, Sue Brown, Sharon Applegate, Joe Rapkoch, Tina Rehbein, Darrell Rud, Marco Ferro, Dave Puyear, and Lance Melton.

6. Establish the next meeting date.

November 15-16, 2010

December 13-14, 2010

Location: Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena